

In the Specification:

Page 1, before line 8, the paragraph beginning with "The invention relates" insert the following titles and paragraph:

-- PRIORITY CLAIM

This is a U.S. national stage of application No. PCT/EP2003/014208, filed on 13 December 2003. Priority is claimed on the following application(s): Country: Germany, Application No.: 102 60 574.2, Filed: 21 December 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION --

Please delete the paragraph on page 1, line 15 in its entirety.

Page 1, before line 18, the paragraph beginning with "The modular printing", insert the following title:

-- SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION --

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 1, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The modular printing unit ~~advantageously~~ according to the invention comprises three main groups a frame; subunits; and at least one cross member:

- a the frame, ~~which~~ performs the load-bearing function and accommodates all the services and operating elements[[,]] (alternatively a stand configured in the manner of a frame can also be used),
- the format-independent "subunits" ~~which~~ are mounted in the frame or stand and which contain the auxiliary subassemblies necessary to the printing

process[.] (In the offset process which is common nowadays, ~~these are the~~ subunits mainly include inking and damping units), and

- the at least one crossmember ~~which~~ is configured as a “locking bar”, which is arranged in the frame or connected to the stand on both sides and in which the main subassemblies necessary for printing - plate cylinders and rubber-covered cylinders in offset printing - are mounted.

In addition, additional equipment such as plate loading systems or digital imaging systems (direct imaging) can be mounted in the crossmember. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- A The modular printing unit of the present invention may be configured as an H printing unit ~~can be~~ equipped with 1, 2, 3, 4 or more printing points, or a modular printing unit configured as an I printing unit with 1, 2 or more printing points. In the I design, imprinting mechanisms ~~can~~ may also be installed ~~as a result~~. The subunits of the modular printing unit are preassembled for this purpose and are attached to the frame. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The ~~cylinders for~~ plate cylinders and rubber-covered cylinders ~~can~~ may be arranged in the crossmember ~~flat, that is to say~~ in one line parallel to the crossmember, crossed in any direction or arranged at angles to one another. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

- The modular printing unit can be equipped with various types of drive:
- an H drive for the simultaneous drive of four printing mechanisms, integrated in the frame;
 - a bridge drive for the simultaneous drive of two printing mechanisms, integrated in the crossmember, advantageously positioned at the center of the plate cylinder and driving the rubber-covered cylinder via drive elements; or
 - an individual drive for each printing mechanism, integrated in the crossmember, advantageously positioned at the center of the plate cylinder and driving the rubber-covered cylinder via drive elements, or integrated in the respective subunit.

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 32 in its entirety.

Page 5, before line 35, the paragraph beginning with "The invention is", insert the following title:

-- BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~-- The invention is to be explained in more detail in the following text by using some exemplary embodiments.~~ In the drawings, ~~in schematic form~~ wherein like reference characters denote similar elements throughout the several views:

~~fig~~ Fig. 1 ~~shows~~ is a schematic side view of a printing unit according to the invention, configured as an H printing unit having four printing points,

~~fig~~ Fig. 2 ~~shows~~ is a sectional plan view of a drive of a printing mechanism according to ~~fig~~ Fig. 1,

~~fig~~ Fig. 3 ~~shows~~ is a sectional plan view of a further drive of a printing mechanism according to ~~fig~~ Fig. 1,

~~fig.~~ Figs. 4a and 4b ~~are side views of~~ shows a printing unit according to the invention configured as an I printing unit,

~~fig.~~ Figs. 5a and 5b ~~are schematic side views of~~ shows an illustration of the subunits in printing machines having ~~the ease of~~ different formats. --

Page 6, before line 17, the paragraph beginning with "Figure 1 shows", insert the following title:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Figure 1 shows a printing unit 1 of a web-fed rotary press, comprising a stand 2 constructed in the manner of a frame ~~having two~~. Two crossmembers 3; 4 ~~to be~~ are connected to the latter on both sides (only one side is shown in Fig. 1), in each case two printing mechanisms 5 to 8 having plate cylinders 9 to 12 and rubber-covered cylinders 13 to 16 being arranged in the crossmembers 3; 4 and the crossmembers 3; 4 being arranged horizontally in the stand 2. The plate cylinders 9 to 12 and the rubber-covered cylinders 13 to 16 are here arranged in line in the

crossmember 3; 4. They can be arranged in the crossmember 3; 4 crossed in any direction or at angles to one another, not illustrated here. Each printing mechanism 5 to 8 or each plate cylinder 9 to 12 is connected to a subunit 17 to 20 of modular design, the subunit 17 to 20 being arranged between the respective crossmember 3; 4 and the stand 2. Inking and damping units, not specifically illustrated, are integrated in the subunits 17 to 20. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 36, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The printing unit 1 equipped with four printing mechanisms 5 to 8 in this way represents what is known as an H printing unit with four printing points, ~~a.~~ A web 29 to be printed ~~being~~ is led through between the rubber- covered cylinders 13 to 16. The printing mechanisms 5 to 8 print the web 29 on both sides. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~Alternatively, the~~ The rubber-covered cylinder 13; ~~15 or the rubber-covered cylinder 14;~~ to 16 can be configured as an impression cylinder 50, the respective form cylinder 9 to 12 belonging to the rubber-covered cylinder 13 to 16 now designed as an impression cylinder 42 being omitted. ~~The~~ When impression cylinder 50 is used, the web 29 is thus printed on one side. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- ~~Figure 4~~ Figures 4A and 4B shows a printing unit 50 which is configured as an I printing unit. In an I printing unit 50, the crossmember 51 is, for example, configured in the shape of a T and the web 29 is led through the printing unit 50 in the horizontal direction. The I printing unit 50 can be equipped with 1 or 2 printing points. Thus, imprinting mechanisms can also be incorporated in an I design. The subunits 52; 53 are preassembled in a way analogous to fig. 1 for this purpose and are fitted in the stand 54. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- By means of the combination of a top left 52 and bottom right subunit 53 designed in a modular way, it is possible to construct an I printing unit 50 for a left-right machine (see fig. ~~4A, upper illustration~~); by means of the combination of a top right 55 and bottom left subunit 56 designed in a modular way, it is possible to construct an I printing unit 50 for a right-left machine (see fig. ~~4B, lower illustration~~). --

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 37, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The subunits 17 to 20 are shown in ~~figure 5~~ Figures 5A and 5B are arranged in two different stands 2; 2'. The subunits 17 to 20 always have the same dimensions, it being possible for the stands 2; 2' to be different in their format or in their dimensions, the dimension and the format of the stands 2; 2' depending on the number and dimension of the printing

cylinders used. While viewing the two illustrations shown in ~~figure~~ figures 5A and 5B, it is possible to see the identically dimensioned subunits 17 to 20, but with the format difference between the stands 2; 2' represented by ΔB in Fig. 5B. --

Please delete page 10, in its entirety.

Page 11, replace the title with the following rewritten title:

-- ~~Patent claims~~ What is claimed is --

Please amend the abstract as shown on a separate page attached hereto.